

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the incorporation by reference in the specification, which is addressed by this response. The Examiner also objected to certain language in claim 17, which is also addressed by this response. The Examiner's careful review is noted with appreciation.

Claims 13-17 and 23 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Garganese U.S. Patent 5,197,596. Claims 1-12 were allowed, and claim 18 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, with an indication that the claim would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this response, the subject matter of claim 18 has been incorporated into independent claim 13, such that claim 13 is believed to be in allowable form. Claims 14-17 depend directly or indirectly from claim 13, and are thus also believed allowable.

Claims 19-22 have been canceled. Claim 23 has been amended so as to patentably define over the references. New claim 24, which depends from claim 23, has been added.

Claim 23 has been amended to state that the product support member defines an upper area and a lower area. The engagement means is defined as being associated with the upper area of the product support member for enabling the product support member to be supported in a suspension-type manner at an upper support location. Claim 23 is also amended to state that the product support means is associated with the lower area of the product support member for securing the product to the product support member. Claim 23 is further amended to state that the engagement means and the product support means are arranged such that the engagement means is offset in a forward direction relative to the product support means and the product is in vertical alignment with the engagement means, so as to maintain the product and the package in a generally

upright position when supported at the upper support location in the suspension-type manner.

The language added to claim 23 is similar to language contained in allowed claim 1. In the Garganese reference, the product support hooks extend rearwardly from the upper end of the product support member. This is in direct contrast to the subject matter of claim 23, which specifically states that the engagement means is offset in a forward direction relative to the product support means, with the product being in vertical alignment with the engagement means.


For the above reasons, claim 23 is believed to patentably define over the Garganese reference. A review of the remaining references of record similarly fails to show or suggest the claimed subject matter, and accordingly claim 23 is believed allowable.

Claim 24 depends from claim 23, and is believed allowable for the above reasons as well as in view of the claimed subject matter.

Applicant's attorney has made every effort to place the application into condition for allowance with claims 1-17, 23 and 24, and such action is earnestly requested.

The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by phone if questions remain after consideration of this response, or if such would otherwise facilitate prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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